

Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
July 3, 2008

Paul Branson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m.

Members in attendance: Janet Abelson, Ken Altenburger, Steve Belkin, Joe Bischofberger, Myrtle Braxton, Richard Burnett, David Grant, Gene Halliday, Julio Lacayo, Marshall Loring, Josh Miele, Dennis Trenten, Doug Weir, Craig Yates.

Members reported as unavailable: Eleanor Bloch, Rich Hedges, Barbara Rhodes, Shirlee Zane.

Audience Member Self-introductions

- Bob Planthold, MTC Advisory Council
- Wendy Yu

EDAC Minutes of June 5, 2008 were approved with a motion by Mr. Bischofberger and a second by Mr. Burnett. Abstaining: Ms. Braxton, Mr. Halliday and Mr. Miele.

Member Updates

Announcement: the annual celebration of passing the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA), held annually by the San Francisco Mayor's Commission on Disability, will be July 18th from 11:30am-1pm in City Hall's Light Court (rsvp to Commission on Disability).

At this point in the meeting, the order of the agenda was changed.

EDAC Subcommittee Reports (from meetings earlier that morning)
Reports were heard from Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee Chair Burnett and Pedestrian Safety Subcommittee Chair Grant.

Chair's Report – Mr. Branson said EDAC's work this year has been really good and encouraged it continue after or even during the summer break, especially the work of EDAC's subcommittees.

Staff Report

Ursula Vogler said that before going on vacation she would e-mail the chairs of EDAC subcommittees whom to contact [determined to be MTC's Georgia Lambert at glambe@mtc.ca.gov or 510/817-5787] to reserve rooms for meetings in August, if any. Ms. Vogler also reported on the Department of Justice seeking comment by Aug. 18, 2008 on the Notice of Proposed Rule Making to revise the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA).

Advisory Council Report

Mr. Grant asked Mr. Planthold, chair of the Advisory Council, to make the report. He said that a joint fare for multi-operator transit trips (universal fare) is at a standstill due to operator resistance over concerns about revenue and also due to the lack of public outcry. In response to being asked if TransLink® will function like a joint fare, he said it isn't available everywhere, and is unconvinced it ever will be. MTC's James Corless explained that TransLink® will eliminate the need to fumble in pockets for coins, but will not allow a universal fare for a passenger to travel from one end of the region to another.

FTA Section 5310 Elderly & Disabled Specialized Transit Program

MTC's Christina Atienza provided an overview of the submitted projects and their scores, from which a draft prioritized listing was to be developed for eventual presentation to the Commission.

Mobility Management Funding Sources

Ms. Atienza reviewed general information on several potential sources of funding for mobility management projects.

Preferred Investment Package for T2035

Seeking financial distribution recommendations from EDAC members, MTC's Catalina Alvarado and Ursula Vogler presented information on the financially constrained investments and distribution preferences of MTC's advisors (as of June 26, 2008) for long-term funding.

Member comments:

- Are bikes considered as transportation or as recreation? [MTC's Ashley Nguyen said that MTC's regional bicycle master plan identifies major routes that are used for both purposes.]
- Funding for bicycles appears in various portions of T-2035, including sections such as TLC and Climate protection.
- Can revenue from high-occupancy tolls (HOT lanes) be used in the Efficiency program? [Ms. Alvarado said 'no', that the HOT network is not yet built, and Ms. Nguyen said that MTC doesn't know yet where HOT revenues will be spent.]
- Eventually, we would like to see the actual dollar amounts being proposed or allowed for programs specifically related to disability and accessibility.
- Increase funding for Lifeline and decrease bike funding, given the burgeoning elderly population.
- Everyone walks, people in wheelchairs use walking facilities. It's out of whack to give money to air smoggers.

Ms. Alvarado sought comment on Efficiency and Maintenance.

Additional member comment:

- Support transit-vehicle replacement.
- Take money from FPI (the freeway performance initiative).

In summary, EDAC's comments on Efficiency were to increase funding for Lifeline and Climate action while decreasing funding for the regional bicycle network (in order to accommodate pedestrians) and the freeway performance initiative. Also, to consider folding into the Lifeline program, at a later time, the specific interests of the elderly and the disabled.

Ms. Alvarado sought EDAC preferences on project selection under the Expansion category, asking for a vote on whether performance (defined as a high benefit-cost ratio) or local priorities ought to carry more weight. EDAC member Mr. Grant said he defined performance as congestion reduction, which he said is not a sufficient metric for performance. A vote of 10-3 revealed a preference for local priorities.

Member of the public, Wendy Yu, asked how the forecast of \$6.1B for HOT lane revenue was created; Ms. Nguyen said that details would be forthcoming.

Other Business - The next EDAC meeting was scheduled for Sept. 4, 2008. The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.